[31st January 1931

The terms of the licence granted to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. were published at pages 34–40 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 6th January 1931.

(*i*) The Government's programme in regard to these places is explained in the answer to clause (*a*). The grant of licences for distribution depends on the circumstances of each case.

Jails

Change of certain political prisoners from a higher to a lower class.

* 342 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of political prisoners who were treated as A or B class by the convicting Magistrate but were subsequently changed into B or C class respectively in the jail, with the reasons, if any, for the change of classification;

(*b*) whether Mr. Mangipudi Purushottama Sarma, Mr. Tallapragada Narasimha Sarma and Mr. Kuduganti Jagganna Sastri of West Godavari district were so changed from A to B; and, if so, why; and

(*c*) whether Mr. Vittalla Virabhadrarao, Poduri Perraju and Sagi Subbaraju of West Godavari were similarly changed from B to C; and, if so, why?

A.—(*a*) The Government have revised the classification of satyagraha prisoners in about 186 cases in all for the period from March to the end of December 1930. The number of those alone who were changed from A or B class into B or C class respectively is not readily available separately. The classification was changed by Government with reference to—

(1) the status, education, mode of life, property, etc., of the prisoners; and

(2) the request from certain prisoners to put them in C class.

(*b*) & (*c*) Yes; the change in classification was effected for the reason (1) given in the answer to clause (*a*).

Supply of newspapers and writing materials to political prisoners.

* 343 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether newspapers and writing materials are denied to the political prisoners in Madras?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 2 (VI) of Law (General) Department Press Communiqué, dated 19th March 1930, and to rules 437, 747-C (5) and 747-D (5) of the Madras Jail Manual.

Hand-cuffing of Dr. P. Gurumurti on transfer from Rajahmundry.

* 344 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Dr. P. Gurumurti (of Rajahmundry, East Godavari) was hand-cuffed and taken in a third-class compartment from Rajahmundry to Vellore Jail; and, if so, the reason for hand-cuffing him and not providing him at least with second-class accommodation during the railway journey?

A.—The information has been called for.